Habitations in the rural areas, with a population of 500 persons and above, by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007).

Setting up of National Rural Road Development Agency for implementation of PMGSY

4067. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether massive rural road construction programme under "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" (PMGSY) has recently been approved by Government as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 9th August, 2001;

(b) whether Government have authorised the Ministry of Rural Development to set up a National Rural Development Agency for this purpose;

(c) if so, what.is the total cost of the above programme and how State-wise implementation thereof will be undertaken; and

(d) whether over 1.40 lakh habitations across the country will be connected by road towards end of 2007 ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is estimated that the total cost of the Programme may be of the order of about Rs. 60,000 crore. The projects under PMGSY are formulated by the State Government based on the District Rural Roads Plans and, are executed by the State Authorities, after clearance of the same by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(d) The Programme seeks to provide connectivity, by way of good All-weather Roads, to all Unconnected Habitations (currently estimated at 1.40 lakh) in the rural areas, with a population of 500 persons and above, by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007).

Extension of non-lapsable Centrally sponsored schemes to J & K

4068. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that funds for Centrally sponsored schemes remain un-utilised and get lapsed in most of the areas of J and K State due to limited working seasons of five to six months in a year in view of its topography and climate being such that execution of works cannot take place round the year; and